



WHAT WILL THE MAN OF STEEL DO...
"AS THE WORLD TURNS--FOR THE LAST TIME"?

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ALL NEW!
NO. 499
SEPT.



SUPERMAN[®] STARRING IN **ACTION COMICS.**

THE WORLD
IS COMING TO
AN **END**,
SUPERMAN!
TAKE US WITH
YOU!

YOU CAN'T
LEAVE EARTH
WITHOUT
US!

DON'T
ABANDON
US TO OUR
DOOM!

ANDRU & GIORDANO



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STAR TREK

THE MOTION PICTURE™



Paramount Pictures Presents A Robert Wise Film A Gene Roddenberry Production STAR TREK—THE MOTION PICTURE
Starring William Shatner Leonard Nimoy DeForest Kelley Also Starring Persis Khambatta Co-Starring James Doohan
George Takei Majel Barrett Walter Koenig Nichelle Nichols and Stephen Collins as Decker Screenplay by
Gene Roddenberry and Harold Livingston Produced by Gene Roddenberry Directed by Robert Wise
A Paramount Picture



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COMING THIS CHRISTMAS TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU.

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH-- WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV NEWSMAN CLARK KENT-- BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...

SUPERMAN
Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL, I BESEECH YOU-- BUILD A FLEET OF SPACE-ARKS SO OUR PEOPLE CAN ESCAPE OUR DOOMED WORLD!

FORGET YOUR FOOLISH OBSESSION, JOR-EL! KRYPTON WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER YOU AND YOUR DELUSIONS HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN!

SUPERMAN... YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! EARTH IS ON THE VERGE OF EXPLODING-- AND ONLY YOU AND I CAN SAVE IT!

STOP RANTING, VARTOX! EARTH IS IN NO IMMINENT DANGER OF BEING DESTROYED -- NONE WHATSOEVER!

YEARS AGO, IN A REMOTE CORNER OF OUR GALAXY, A VALIANT SCIENTIST TRIED IN VAIN TO WARN HIS PEOPLE OF THE IMPENDING DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET KRYPTON!

NOW, YEARS LATER, ON EARTH, A SIMILAR PLEA IS SOUNDED-- BUT THIS TIME IT IS THE DEAD SCIENTIST'S SON WHO IS THE DISBELIEVER AND IGNORES THE WARNING...

"AS THE WORLD TURNS... FOR THE LAST TIME!"

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FASTER THAN A GUIDED MISSILE,
A LONE FIGURE PLUNGES DOWN
FROM THE STRATOSPHERE TOWARD
THE CITY OF METROPOLIS...



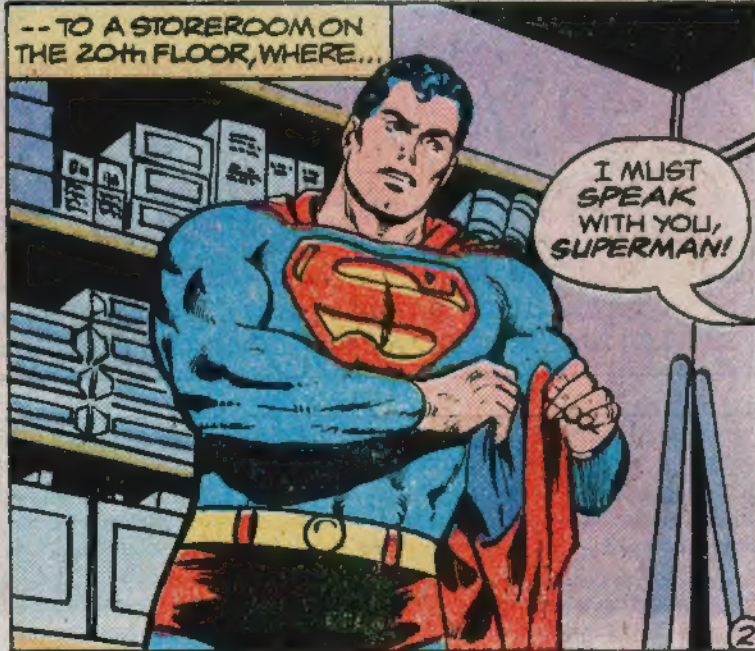
AT THE SAME TIME, ELSEWHERE IN
METROPOLIS...

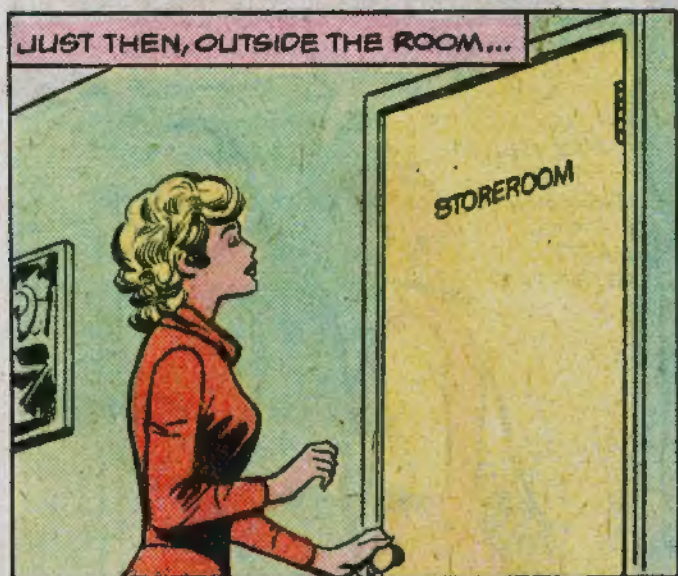
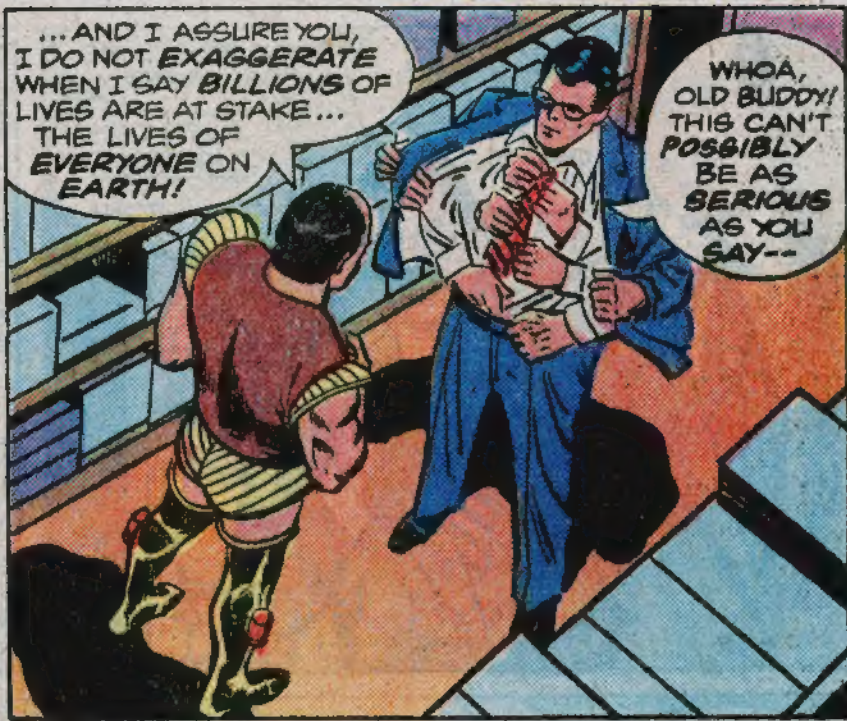
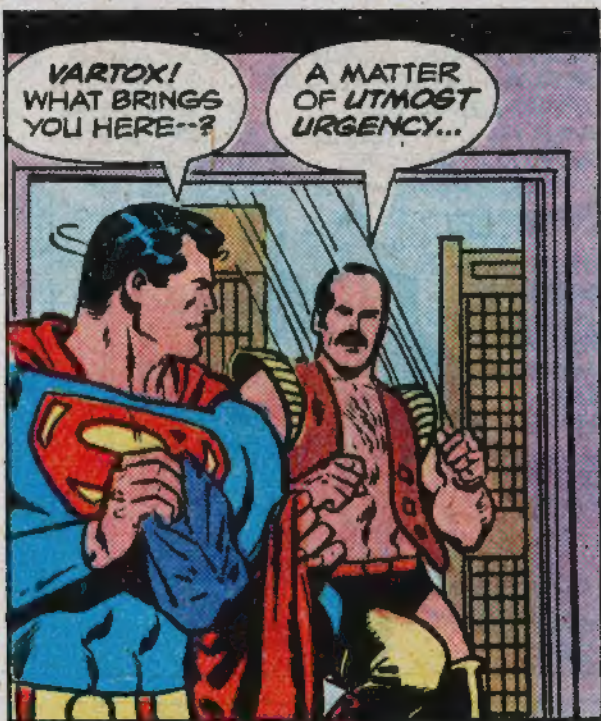


ACCELERATING TOWARD
THE MAMMOTH GALAXY
BUILDING, HIS SPEED
BECOMES SO FAST THE
HUMAN EYE CAN'T
FOLLOW HIS FLIGHT--



-- TO A STOREROOM ON
THE 20th FLOOR, WHERE...



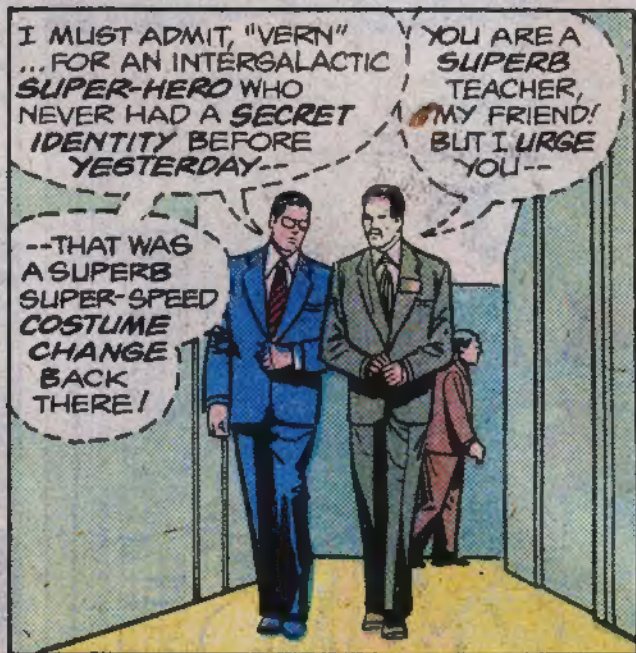




AND ALL I WANTED WAS A NEW BALLPOINT PEN! MY OLD ONE IS SHOT!

WE'LL BE SEEING YOU, JENNY.

SURE THING, MR. KENT! YOU TOO, MR. O'VALERON!



I MUST ADMIT, "VERN" ...FOR AN INTERGALACTIC SUPER-HERO WHO NEVER HAD A SECRET IDENTITY BEFORE YESTERDAY--

YOU ARE A SUPERB TEACHER, MY FRIEND! BUT I URGE YOU--

--THAT WAS A SUPERB SUPER-SPEED COSTUME CHANGE BACK THERE!



--WE MUST GO SOMEWHERE PRIVATE AND TALK-- WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME FOR US TO--

WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK! JUST THE PERSON I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!



I'M SURE WHATEVER CLARK'S TELLING YOU CAN WAIT, VERN! I'VE COME ACROSS A SECURITY PROBLEM THAT DEMANDS YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!

OH, THAT'S TOO BAD, LANA--THAT IS, I MEAN--



POOR VARTOX! WHEN HE BECAME ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH LANA YESTERDAY, HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE WAS LETTING HIMSELF IN FOR!

A LOT OF GOOD HIS HYPER-POWERS WILL DO AGAINST HER FETCHING GREEN EYES!



ER...THE SECURITY PROBLEM YOU SPOKE OF, LANA--?

YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT, LUV!

IT'S GETTING TO THE POINT WHERE I DON'T FEEL SECURE ANYMORE ...UNLESS I'M IN YOUR ARMS!

AND WHATEVER HE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME WILL HAVE TO TAKE A BACK SEAT TO LANA LANG!



OHH-- EXCUSE ME!

Remember How Many Times You Felt Left Out



Because You Were BROKE!

Places the gang was going and you weren't included. They all had money for movies, games, hamburgers and soft drinks . . . all of them except you.

WELL YOU'LL NEVER BE LEFT OUT AGAIN

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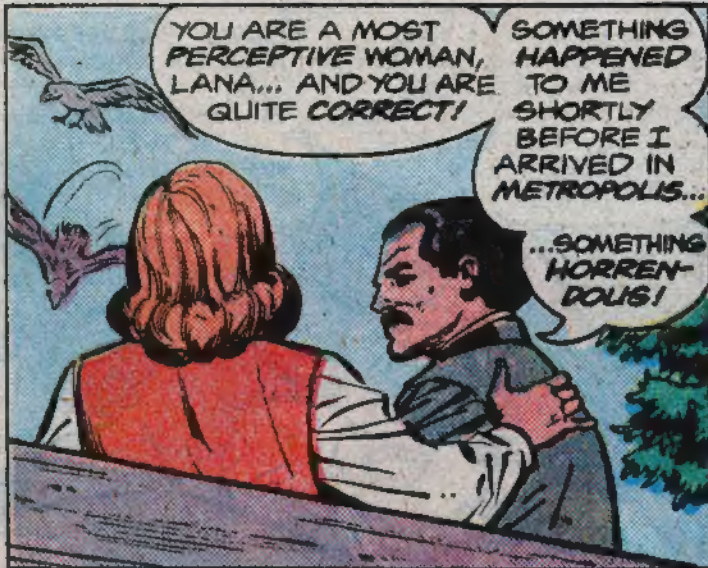
slim jim



METROPOLIS PARK-- WHERE TWO GALAXY EMPLOYEES SHARE MOMENTS AND A LUNCH HOUR TOGETHER...

I'VE TOLD YOU SO MUCH ABOUT ME, VERN, DARLING... BUT THERE'S SO LITTLE I KNOW ABOUT YOUR LIFE BEFORE YOU CAME TO WORK AT GALAXY!

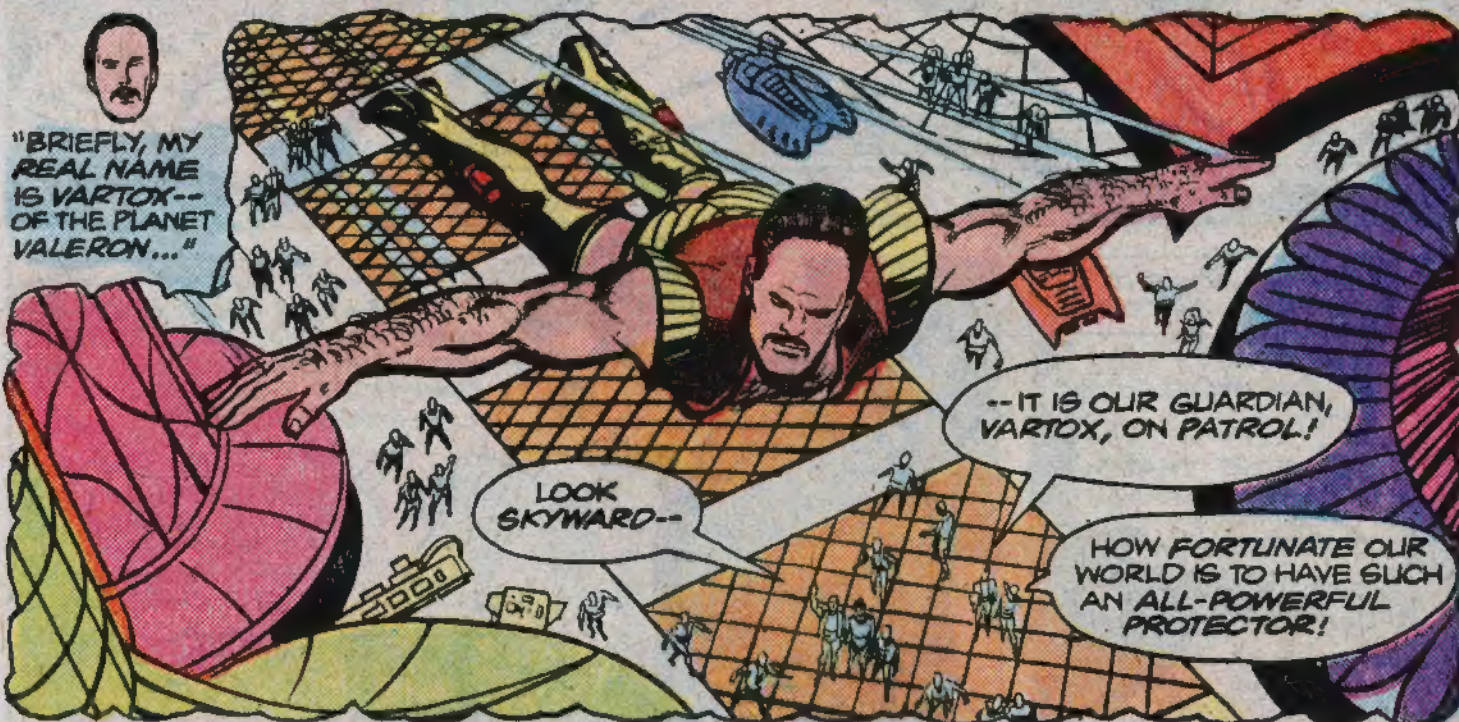
I CAN'T HELP FEELING YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME...



YOU ARE A MOST PERCEPTIVE WOMAN, LANA... AND YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT!

SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME SHORTLY BEFORE I ARRIVED IN METROPOLIS...

...SOMETHING HORRENDOUS!



"BRIEFLY, MY REAL NAME IS VARTOX-- OF THE PLANET VALERON..."

LOOK SKYWARD--

--IT IS OUR GUARDIAN, VARTOX, ON PATROL!

HOW FORTUNATE OUR WORLD IS TO HAVE SUCH AN ALL-POWERFUL PROTECTOR!

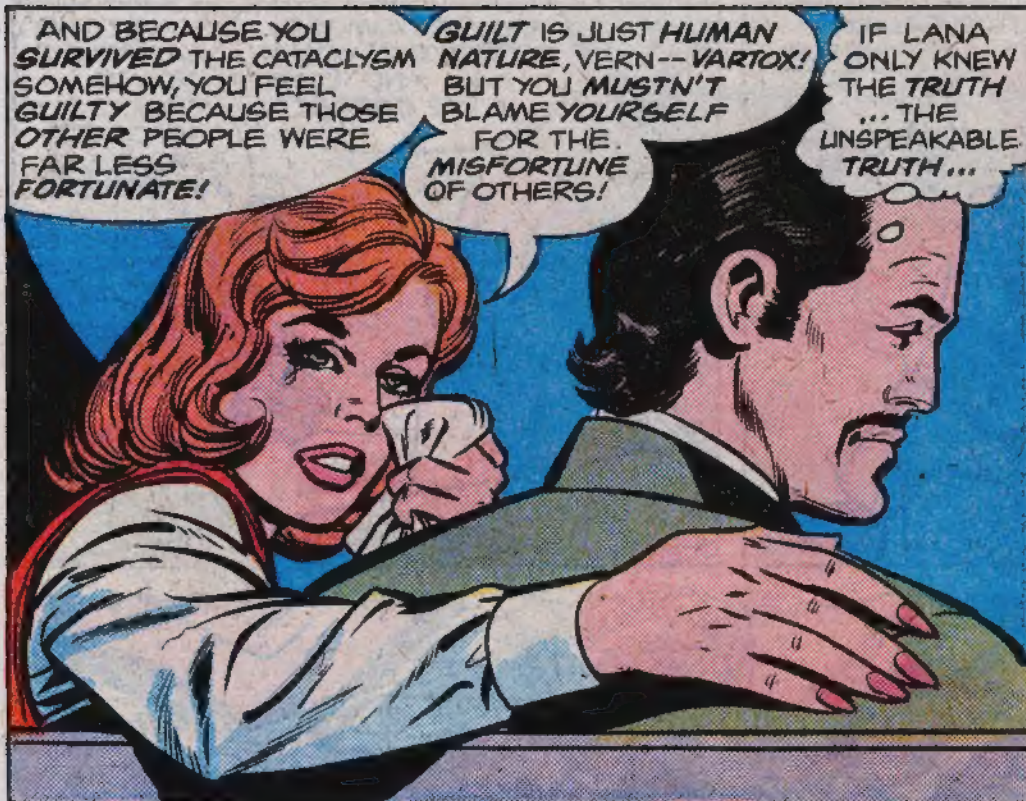
ONE MOMENT I WAS SOARING OVER THE PEOPLE I HAD VOWED TO GUARD AND PROTECT WITH MY LIFE...

...PEOPLE WHO HAD GIVEN ME THEIR UNDYING TRUST AND DEVOTION!

AND THE NEXT MOMENT...

"VALERON DISINTEGRATED BEFORE MY HORRIFIED EYES!..."

"IT HAPPENED SO INCREDIBLY FAST THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO PREVENT THE HOLOCAUST..."



AND BECAUSE YOU SURVIVED THE CATACLYSM SOMEHOW, YOU FEEL GUILTY BECAUSE THOSE OTHER PEOPLE WERE FAR LESS FORTUNATE!

GUILT IS JUST HUMAN NATURE, VERN-- VARTOX! BUT YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THE MISFORTUNE OF OTHERS!

IF LANA ONLY KNEW THE TRUTH ... THE UNSPEAKABLE TRUTH...



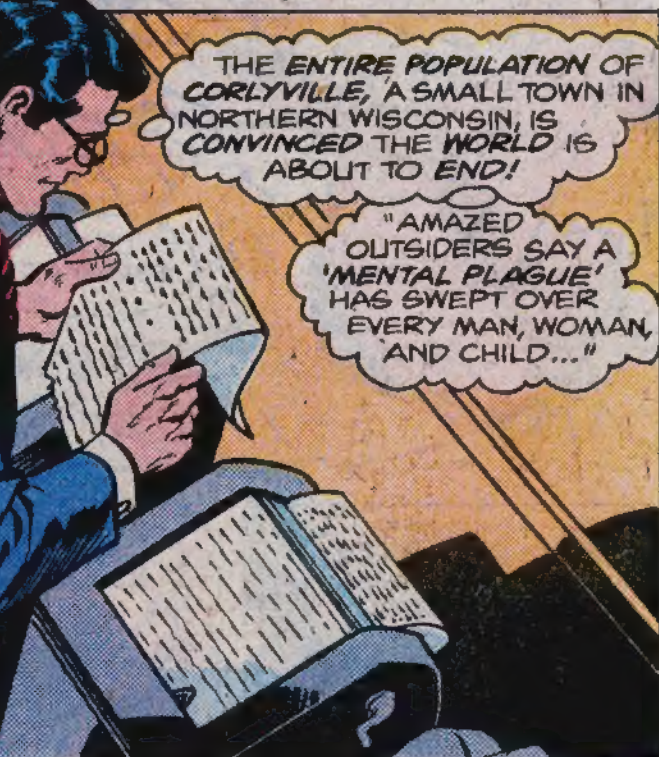
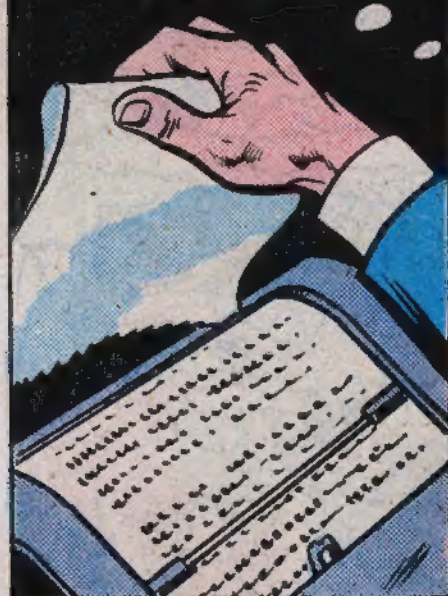
IMAGINE--I THINK I'VE FALLEN FOR AN ORDINARY GUY WHO CAN MAKE ME FORGET SUPERMAN-- AND HE TURNS OUT TO BE A SUPER-HERO, TOO!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE GALAXY NEWSROOM...

GREAT SCOTT! THE "END OF THE WORLD" IS AT HAND!

AT LEAST THAT'S THE FLASH COMING IN ON THIS TELETYPED!

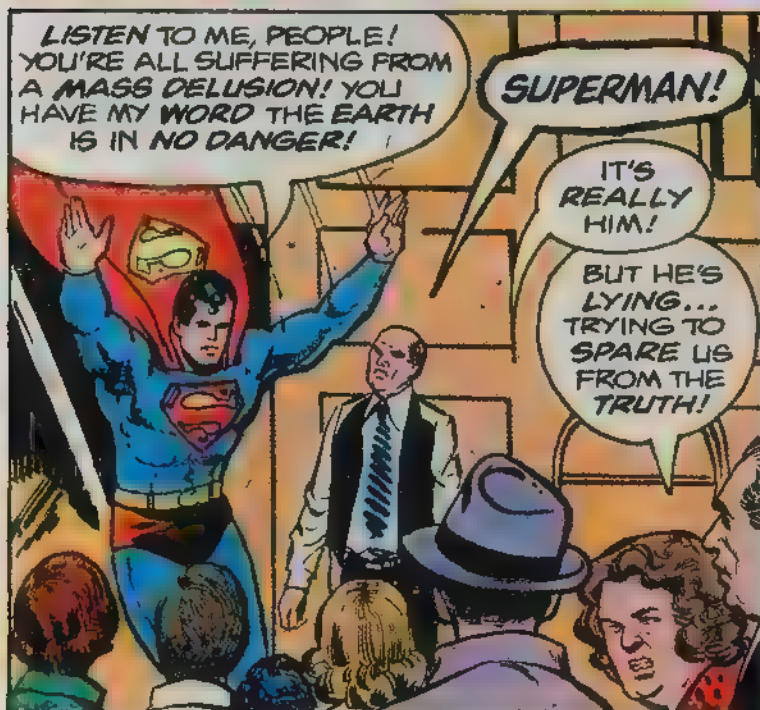
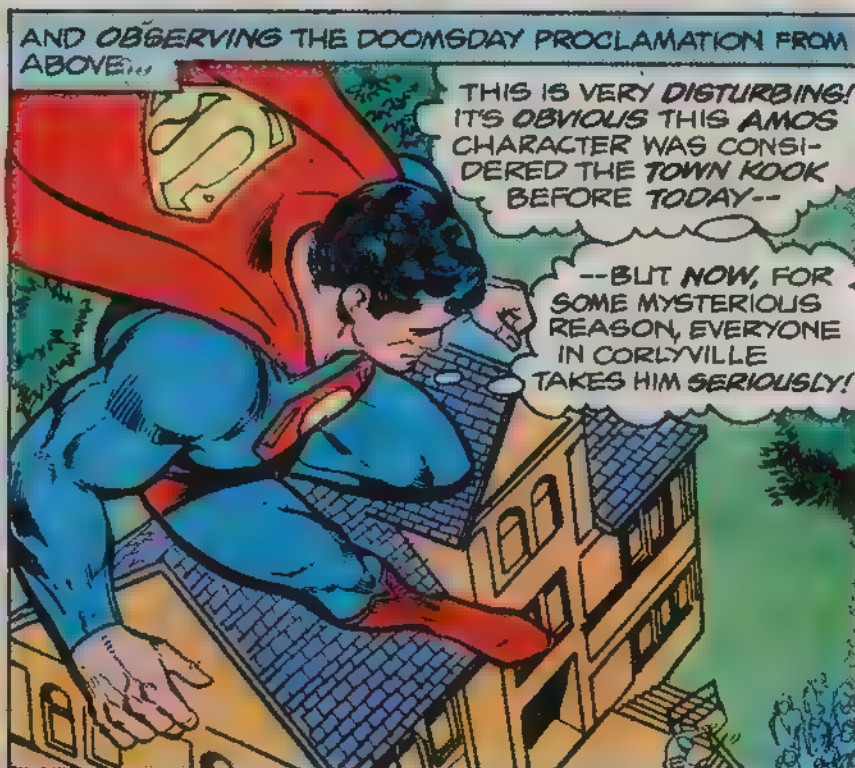
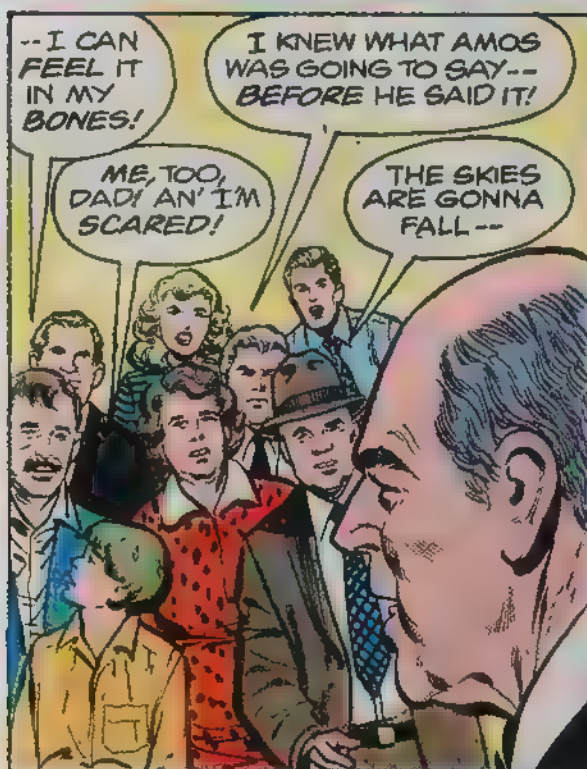
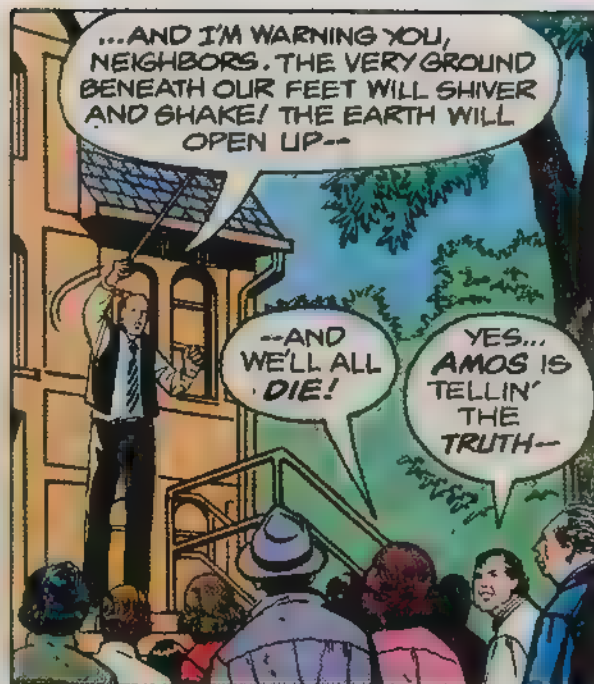


THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF CORLYVILLE, A SMALL TOWN IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN, IS CONVINCED THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO END!

"AMAZED OUTSIDERS SAY A 'MENTAL PLAGUE' HAS SWEEPED OVER EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD..."



"MENTAL PLAGUE"? LET'S CHECK THAT OUT WITH A TELESCOPIC VISION SCAN!



BUT WHEN THE ANGUISHED MAN OF MIGHT ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE THE SCENE OF SENSELESS DESPERATION...

THEY'RE SO AFRAID OF REMAINING ON EARTH THEY REFUSE TO LET GO!

DON'T ABANDON US, SUPERMAN!

TAKE US WITH YOU!

I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

SORRY, FOLKS--FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, I'M GOING TO DEPOSIT YOU SAFELY AND GENTLY IN THAT STRAW STACK!

Y-YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE US HERE--TO DIE!?

HE'S RUNNING OUT ON US!

MAYBE HE'S GOT SOMEONE SPECIAL HE WANTS TO SAVE!

HMMM... FIRST VARTOX TRIES TO TELL ME A MYSTERIOUS MENACE IS THREATENING EVERYONE ON EARTH... AND NOW AN ENTIRE TOWN IS SURE THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO END!

IS THAT JUST COINCIDENCE? I WONDER...

AND BACK AT THE GALAXY BUILDING...

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! SEVERAL RELIGIOUS CULTS PLANNING MASS SUICIDES BEFORE THE WORLD ENDS!

MOSLEMS... JEWS... CHRISTIANS... STREAMING TOWARD JERUSALEM TO AWAIT THE END OF THE WORLD!

GET THIS-- THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL JUST ADJOURNED--

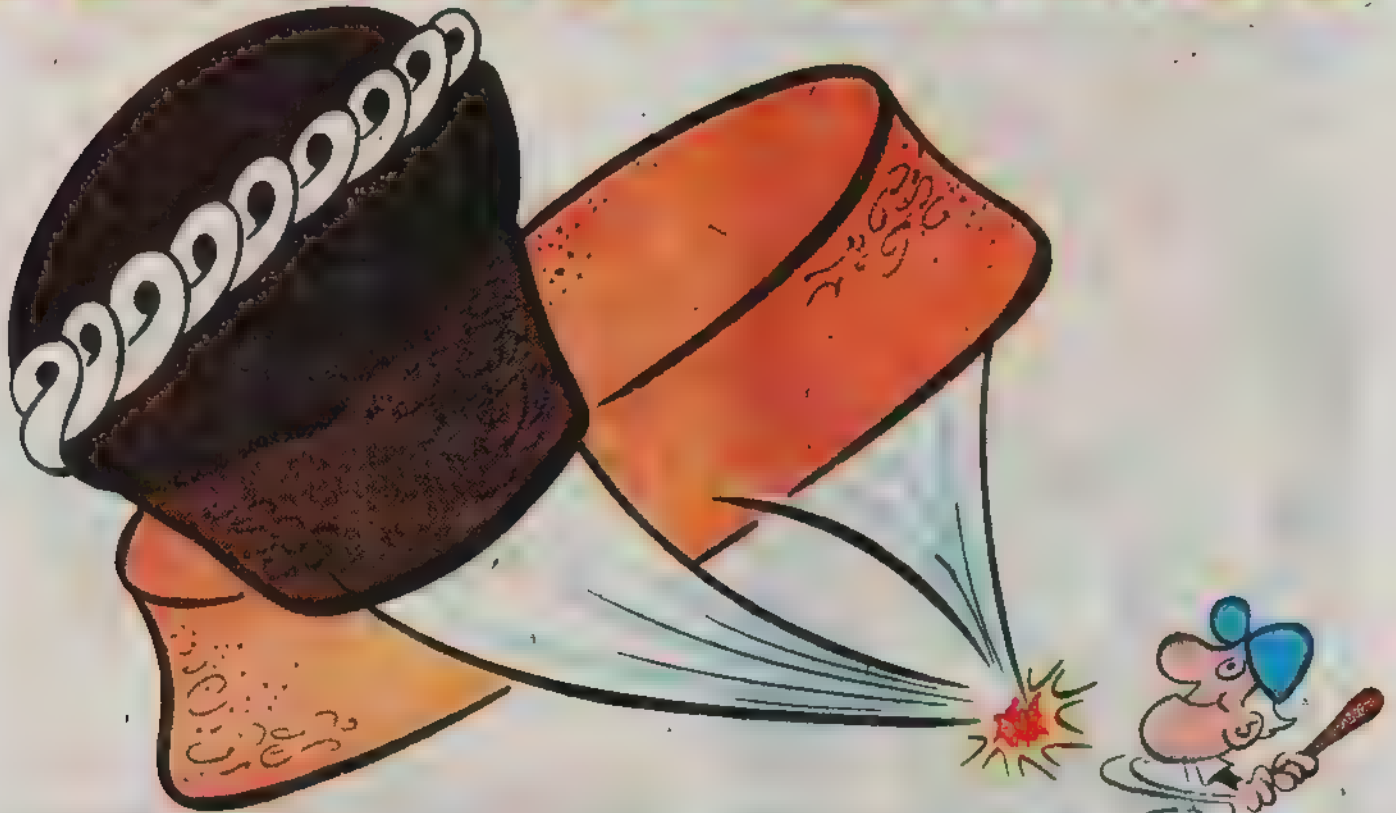
--SO THE MEMBERS COULD RUSH HOME AND BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES WHEN THE END COMES!

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF ALL THIS, LOIS? THE WHOLE WORLD IS DOOM-CRAZY!

WHY ASK LOIS? SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE ANSWER...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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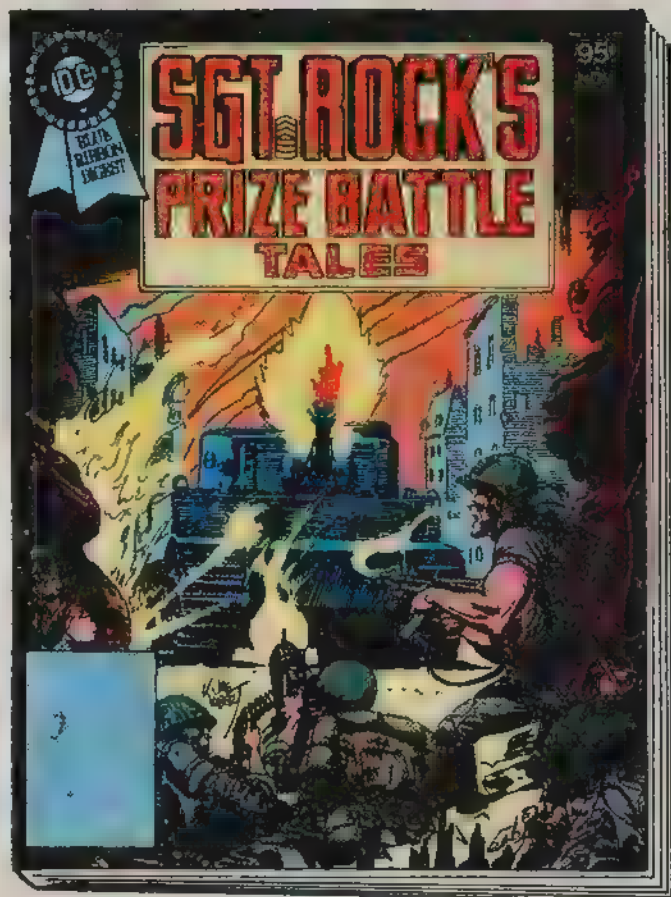
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MORE ACTION MORE PAGES

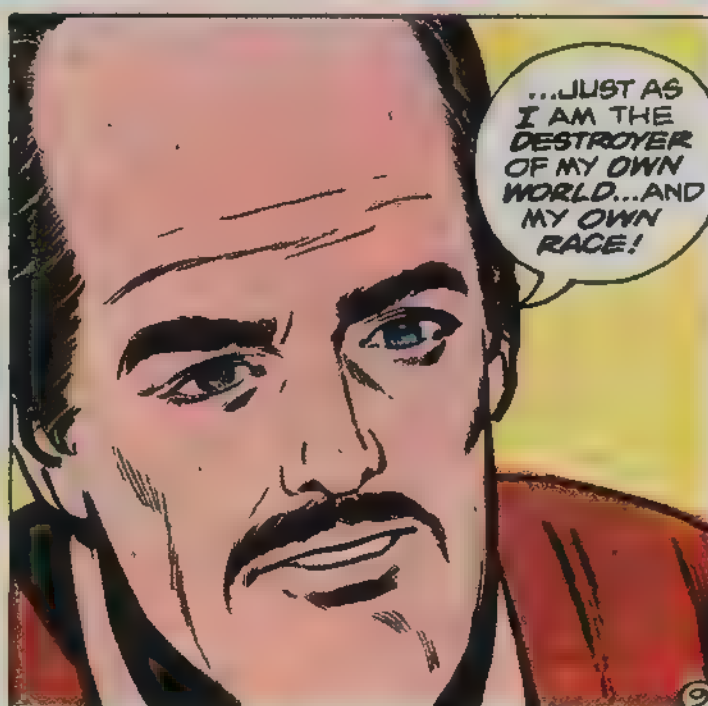
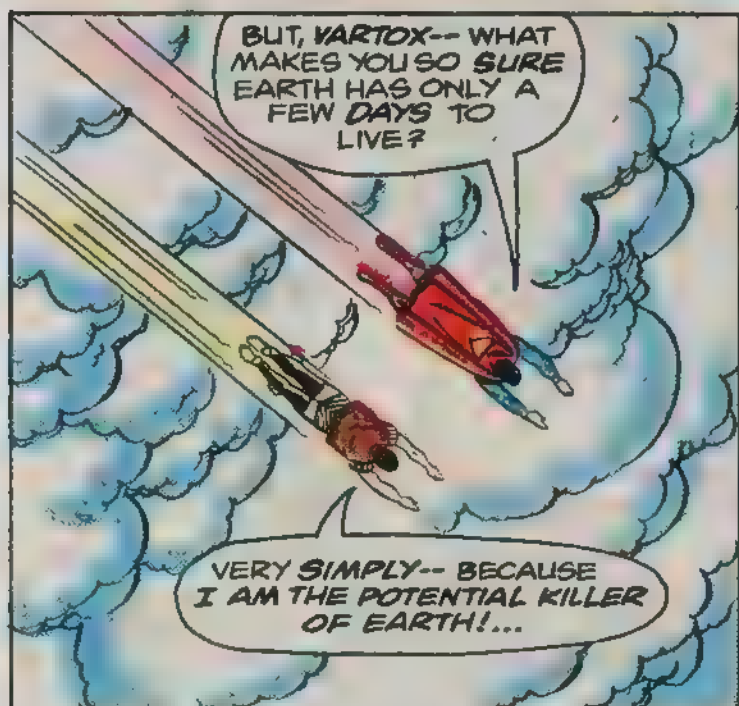
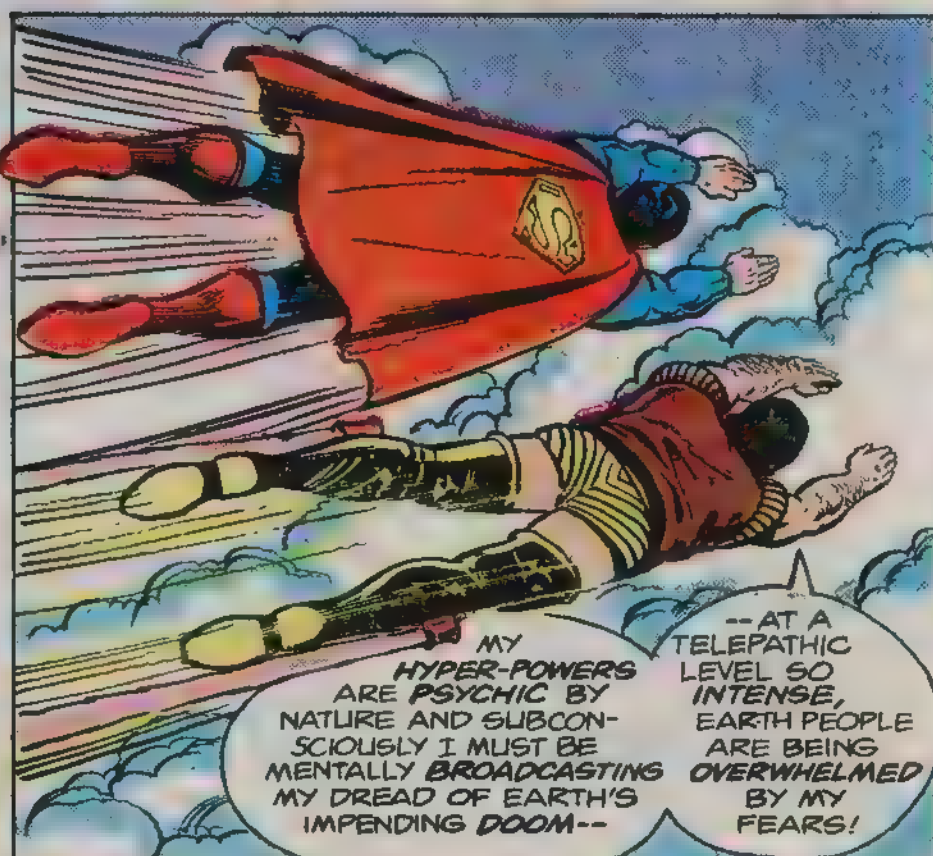
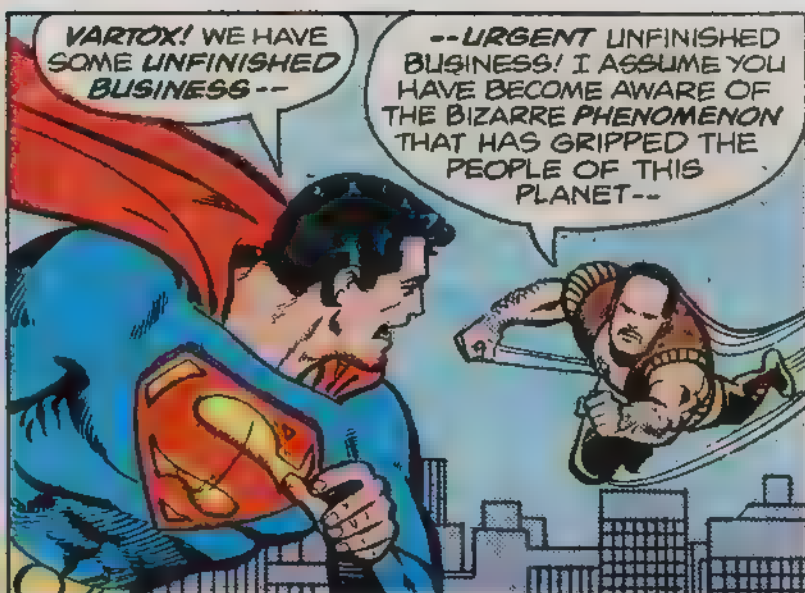
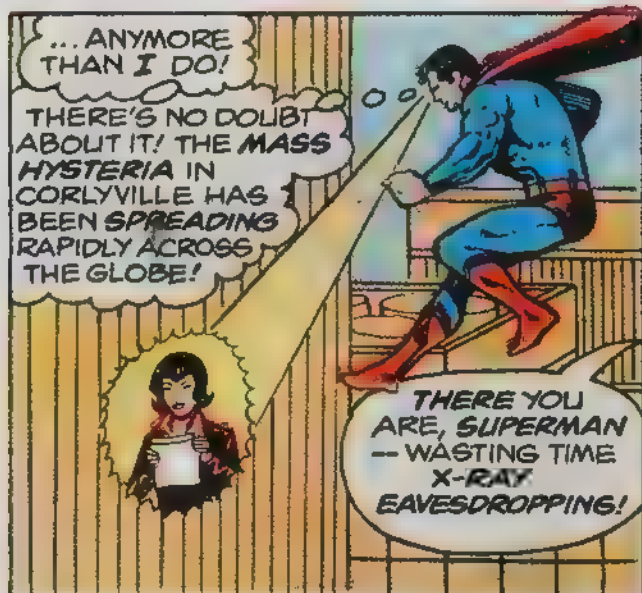


100 PAGES
OF BLAZING BATTLES,
WITH SGT. ROCK,
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER,
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

100 PAGES
OF SENSATIONAL
SECRET ORIGINS
--INCLUDING AN
ALL-NEW ORIGIN OF
WONDER WOMAN!



2 TERRIFIC TITLES ON SALE JULY 5th



FIFTEEN THOUSAND FEET OVER A BUSTLING CITY SOMEWHERE IN EURASIA...

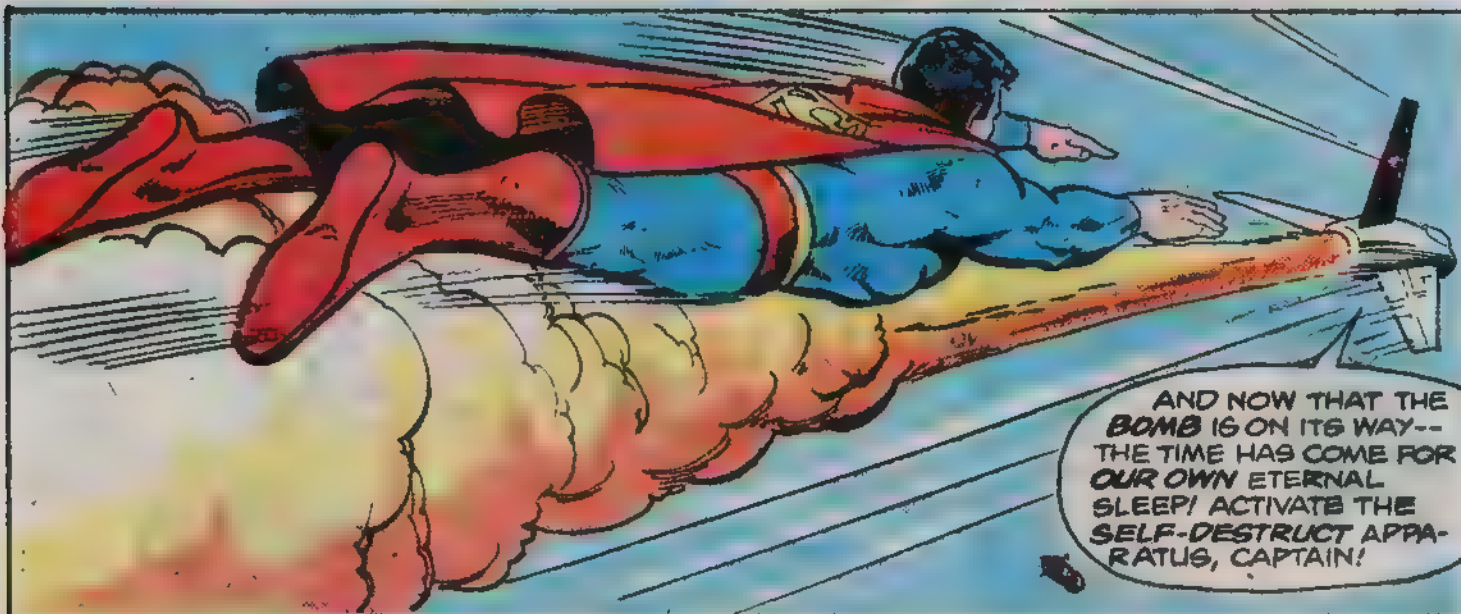
I AM SURE WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING, GENERAL... DROPPING THAT EXPERIMENTAL GAS BOMB ON OUR CITY!

THINK OF IT AS AN ACT OF MERCY, CAPTAIN...

...SINCE WE BOTH KNOW THE EARTH IS ABOUT TO SUFFER A TERRIBLE DOOM!

THIS WAY, WE BRING THEM MERCIFUL DEATHS!

I UNDERSTAND, GENERAL--THE GAS WILL PUT THEM INTO A DEEP SLEEP--FROM WHICH THERE IS NO AWAKENING!

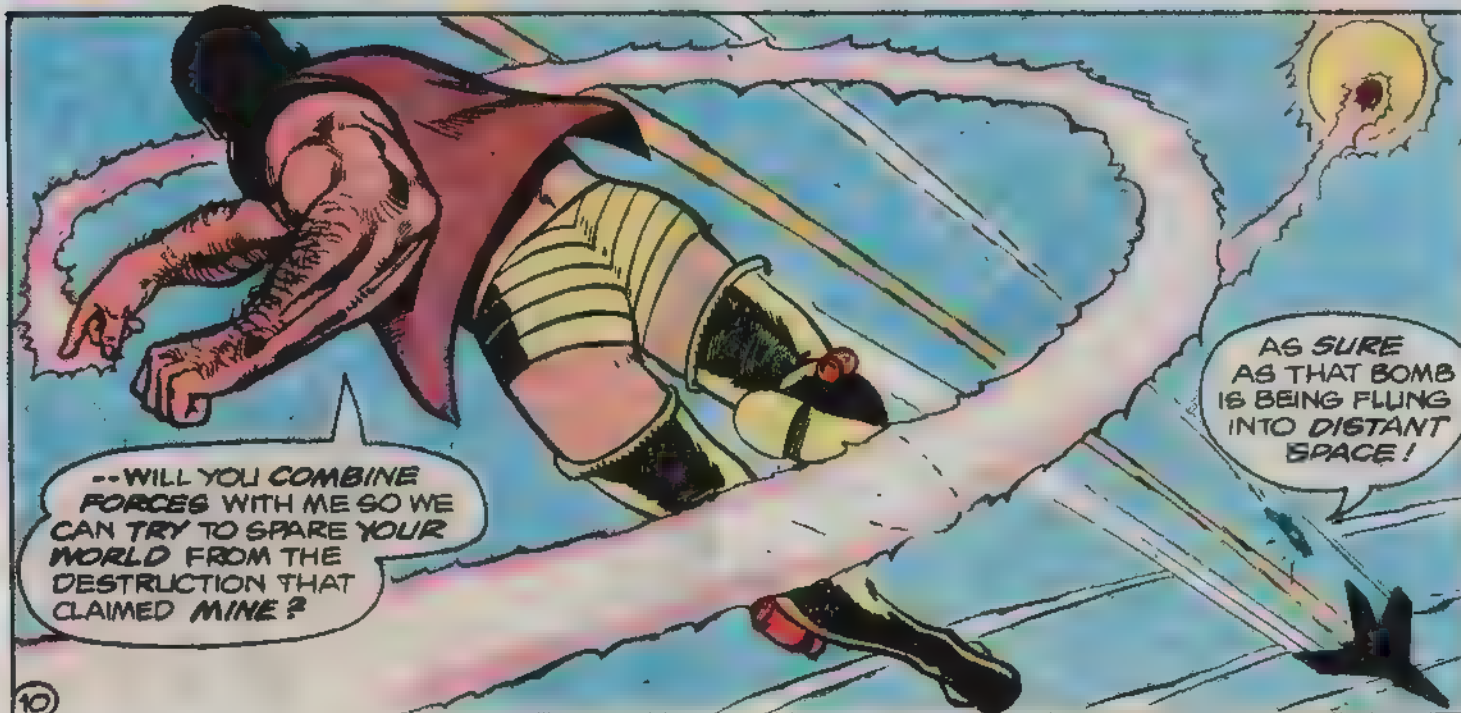


AND NOW THAT THE BOMB IS ON ITS WAY--THE TIME HAS COME FOR OUR OWN ETERNAL SLEEP! ACTIVATE THE SELF-DESTRUCT APPARATUS, CAPTAIN!

MEANWHILE--BEFORE THE LETHAL BOMB CAN REACH ITS DETONATION LEVEL--A HYPER-MAGNETIC BEAM LASHES OUT...



WHEN I PRESENT YOU WITH PROOF, SUPERMAN--IRREFUTABLE PROOF THAT I HAVE DOOMED YOUR EARTH--



--WILL YOU COMBINE FORCES WITH ME SO WE CAN TRY TO SPARE YOUR WORLD FROM THE DESTRUCTION THAT CLAIMED MINE?

AS SURE AS THAT BOMB IS BEING FLUNG INTO DISTANT SPACE!



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They walk talk, chicky
clack and yackety yak
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CANDLES THE WORLD**
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15 different coins
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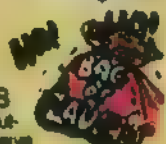
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finger like a ring & give your
friends the S-H-O-C-K of their
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into the machine
turn the knob
PRESTO! from the
other side comes a pre-
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DOLLAR BILL! Insert a
dollar bill & see it
change to a \$5 or \$10!
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it!! The latter is a harmless
black substance.
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Just light
one and thick
clouds rise to the ceiling.
Watch them fill the room! Used
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THIS MAN IS
**JOR-EL OF
KRYPTON--**



ON THE EVE OF THE
DESTRUCTION OF HIS WORLD, HE
SENT HIS INFANT SON TO EARTH--
A SON WHO WOULD GROW UP TO
BECOME --

SUPERBOY

NOW--OVER
1000 YEARS
AFTER HIS
DEATH, ONLY
JOR-EL
STANDS
BETWEEN
THE EARTH--
AND THAT
PLANET'S
DESTRUCTION!
HOW?

THE SENSATIONAL SUPER-TEENS...

SUPERBOY

AND THE

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 255
SEPT

THE BOY OF
STEEL
RACES TO THE
FUTURE!

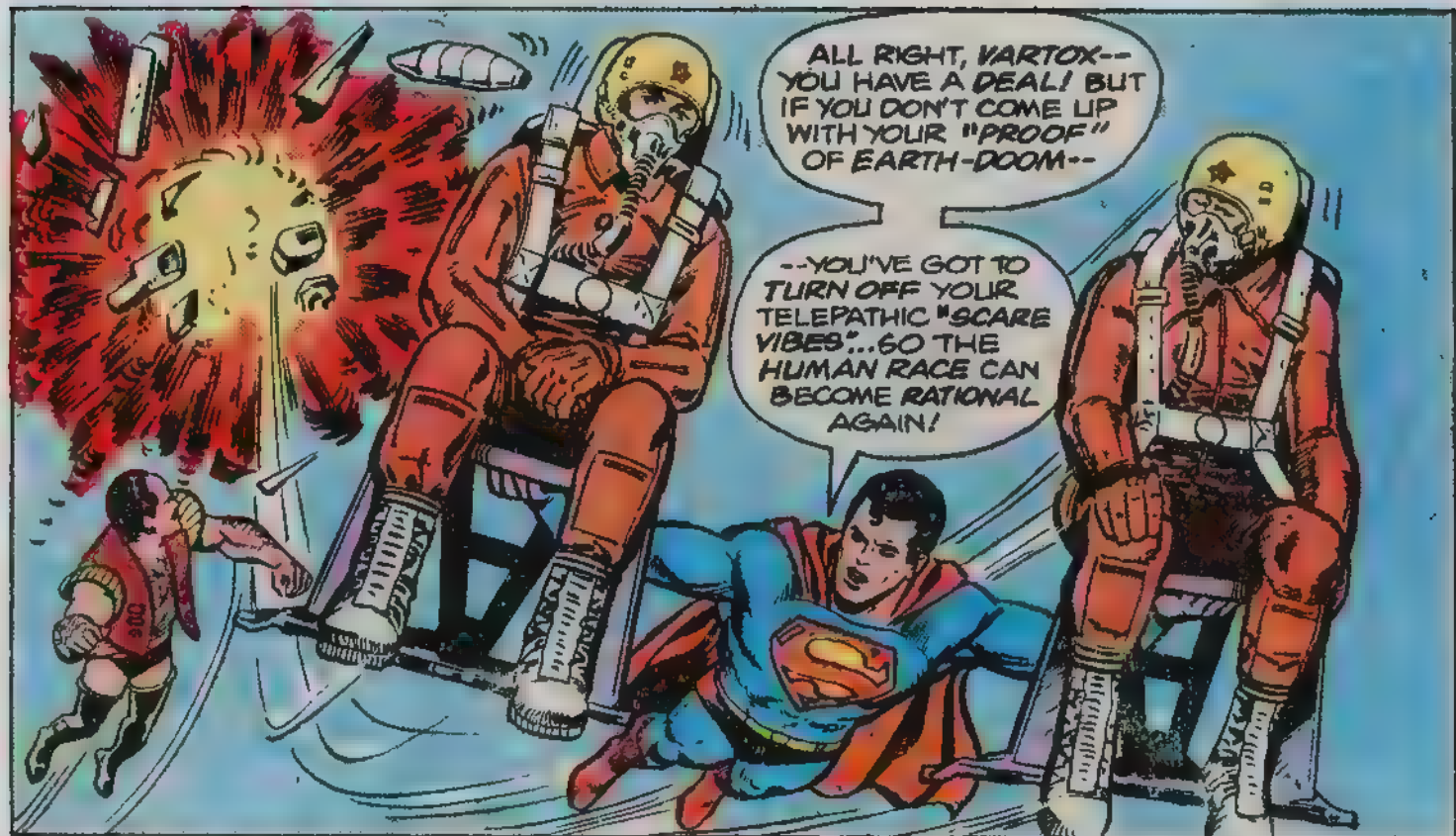
...WHILE THE GALLANT
LEGIONNAIRES SPEED
TO THE PAST--!

JOR-EL OF
KRYPTON--WE'VE
TRAVELED THROUGH
TIME BACK MORE
THAN 1000 YEARS
BECAUSE ONLY YOU
CAN SAVE THE
EARTH!



LEARN THE
STARTLING
SECRET IN
THIS ISSUE!
ON SALE
JUNE 21ST!

AND DON'T MISS
AND THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
IN **DC** COMICS PRESENTS
**#13
NOW ON
SALE!**



SHORTLY, AT THE ARCTIC
FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE --
THE FABULOUS CITADEL WHICH
NOW SHELTERS NOT ONE, BUT
TWO MIGHTY CHAMPIONS...

...LET ME SEE IF I
UNDERSTAND THIS SO FAR:
YOU MAINTAIN THAT YOUR BODY
PICKED UP AN UNDETECTABLE
SPACE-ELEMENT-- UNKNOWN
TO YOUR SCIENCE AND
MINE--

--AN ELEMENT
WITH A VIOLENT
REACTION TO
OXYGEN?

EXACTLY! ACCORDING TO
MY CALCULATIONS, THIS
THEORETICAL X-ELEMENT
STARTS A CHAIN-
REACTION--

--CAUSING
MILLIONS UPON
BILLIONS OF OXYGEN
MOLECULES TO
EXPLODE LIKE
MICROSCOPIC
ATOMIC BOMBS!

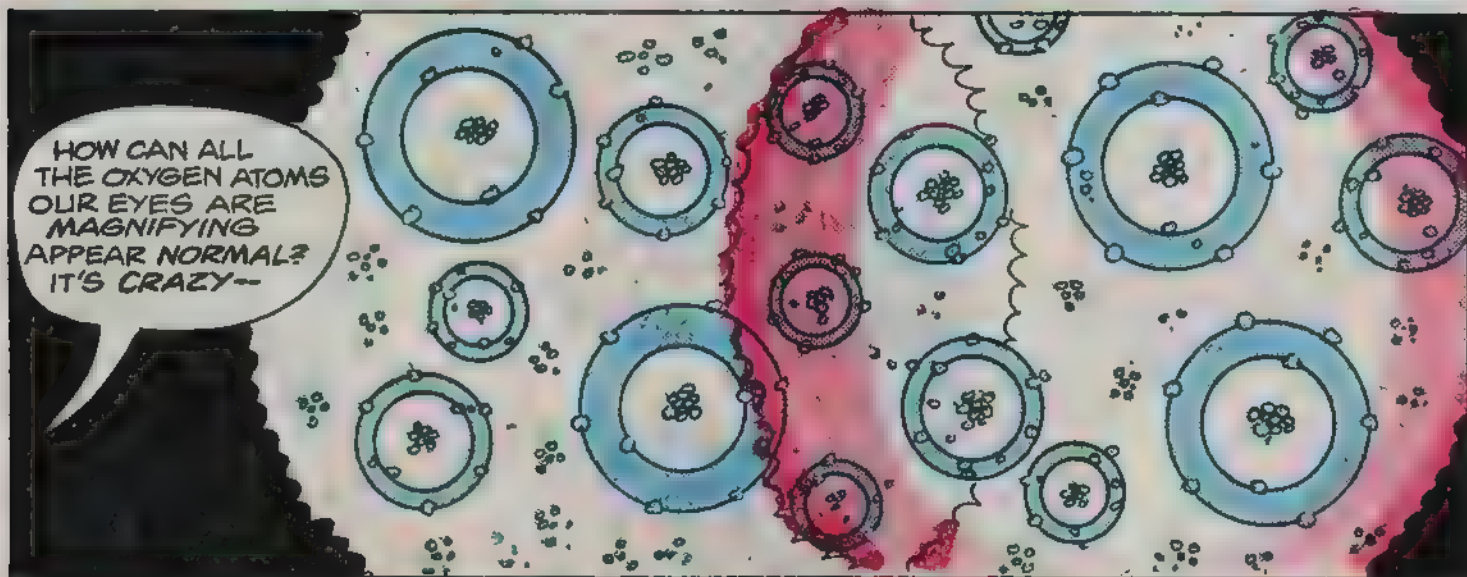
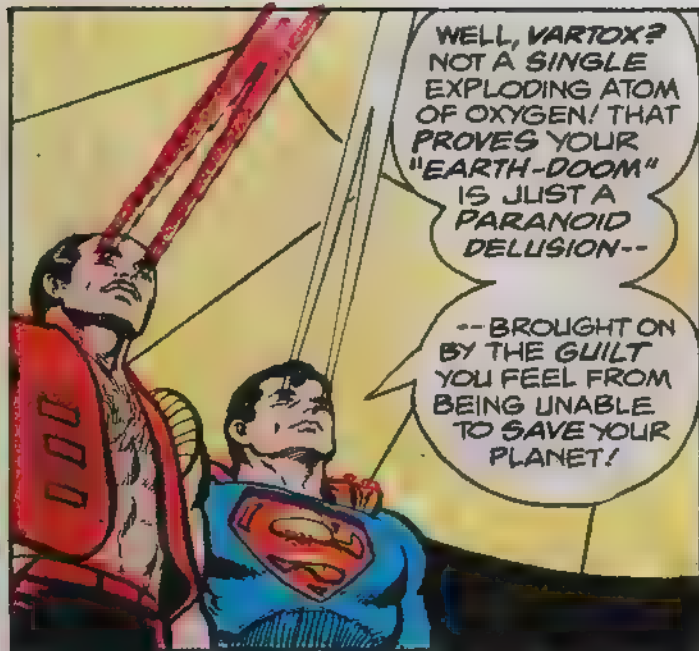
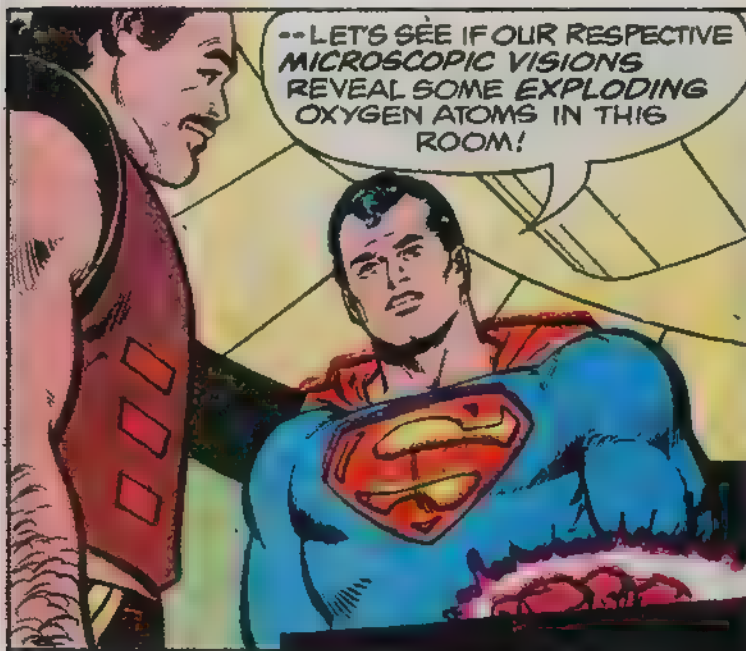
WHEN I RETURNED TO
VALERON CARRYING THE
X-ELEMENT, THE CATASTRO-
PHIC DETONATION WAS
ALMOST IMMEDIATE--

--BECAUSE THE
OXYGEN CONTENT
OF ITS ATMOSPHERE
WAS 60%--
ABOUT THREE
TIMES THAT OF
EARTH'S!

IT IS ONLY THE LOWER OXYGEN LEVEL
THAT HAS SPARED YOUR WORLD THUS
FAR-- BUT TIME IS RAPIDLY RUNNING
OUT!

IN JUST
ABOUT TEN
HOURS, THE
CHAIN REACTION
WILL REACH
CRITICAL
MASS!

AND NOW
FOR THE
PROOF,
VARTOX--



HI-HO
SILVER!
GO-GO
GOLD!

*Eastern
Cowgirl
Fern™*

INTRODUCES

**FLASHTASTIC
NEW
COLLAR TIPS
TO DRESS UP
YOUR SHIRTS!**

TAKE A TIP FROM EASTERN COWGIRL FERN™. THESE REMOVEABLE COLLAR TIPS ADD SPARKLE AND FLAZZZ TO ANY SHIRT WHETHER YOU'RE DOING THE DISCO OR RIDING THE RANGE. WITH A TURN OF THE HIDDEN SET-SCREW THEY ATTACH TO THE COLLAR OF YOUR SHIRTS AND COME OFF JUST AS EASILY WHEN SHIRTS MUST BE LAUNDERED. BUT ONCE YOU'RE WEARING THEM YOU'LL THINK THEY'RE A BRILLIANT IDEA. THEY PUT A NEW SPARKLE AND GIVE A ZINZY FLAIR TO ALMOST ANY SHIRT ...AND BECAUSE THEY'RE REMOVEABLE YOU CAN ADD THEIR SPECIAL TOUCH OF SPARKLE TO ALL YOUR OUTFITS.

**AVAILABLE IN HI-HO SILVER
OR GO-GO GOLD FINISH!**

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P.O. BOX 7528 PHILA., PA. 19101
ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$_____. PLEASE SEND MY FLASHTASTIC NEW COLLAR TIPS SPECIFIED BELOW.

QUAN.	STYLE	GOLD	SILVER	PRICE	TOTAL

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

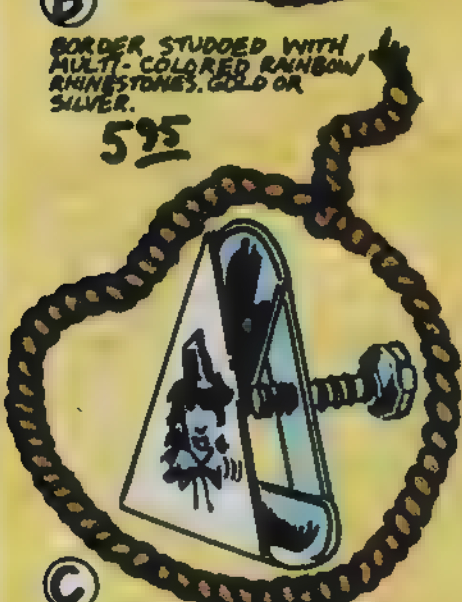
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ON WHITE BACKGROUND,
GOLD OR SILVER. **495**



B
BORDER STUDDED WITH
MULTI-COLORED RAINBOW
RHINESTONES, GOLD OR
SILVER. **595**



C
EASTERN COWGIRL FERN'S FACE
ON GOLD OR SILVER. **495**



AH, THERE YOU ARE, ZAN AND JAYNA! READY FOR YOUR BIG TEST?

FIRST QUESTION: WHO ARE THE STARS OF SUPER FRIENDS?

EASY!

SUPERMAN, WONDER WOMAN, AQUAMAN, BATMAN, ROBIN AND US--THE WONDER TWINS!

AND WHO ELSE APPEARS IN IT?

SUPER-VILLAINS AND GUEST-STARS!

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EXCITING TALES FILLED WITH ACTION AND SUSPENSE!

WHO IS THE MAGAZINE INTENDED FOR?

EVERYONE WHO LOVES THRILLS AND ADVENTURE--FROM KIDS TO ADULTS!

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ALSO, THEY'RE MAILED FLAT, IN A PROTECTIVE WRAPPER, RIGHT TO YOUR HOME!

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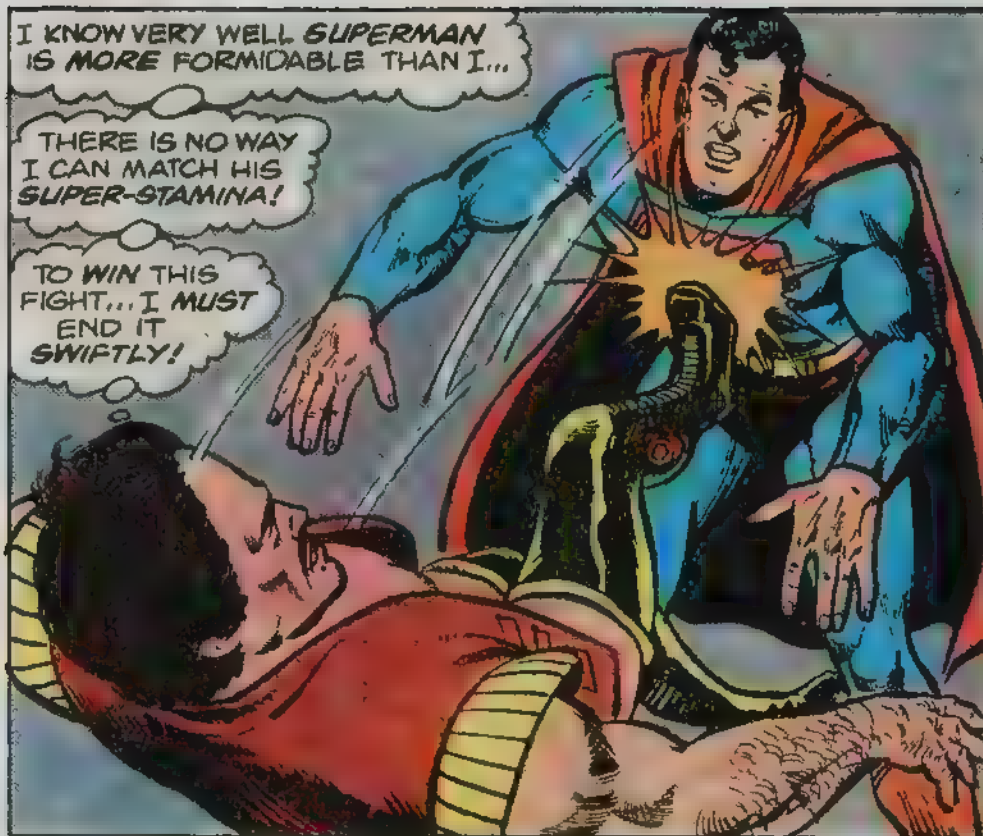
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FULL REMITTANCE MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, NOT CASH. PLEASE ALLOW 8 TO 10 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY OF THE FIRST ISSUES.



I KNOW VERY WELL **SUPERMAN** IS MORE FORMIDABLE THAN I...

THERE IS NO WAY I CAN MATCH HIS **SUPER-STAMINA!**

TO WIN THIS FIGHT... I MUST END IT **SWIFTLY!**



ALTHOUGH I KNOW ALL OF **SUPERMAN'S** CAPABILITIES--

-- I POSSESS **HYPER-POWERS** HE HAS NEVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE-- UNTIL **NOW!**



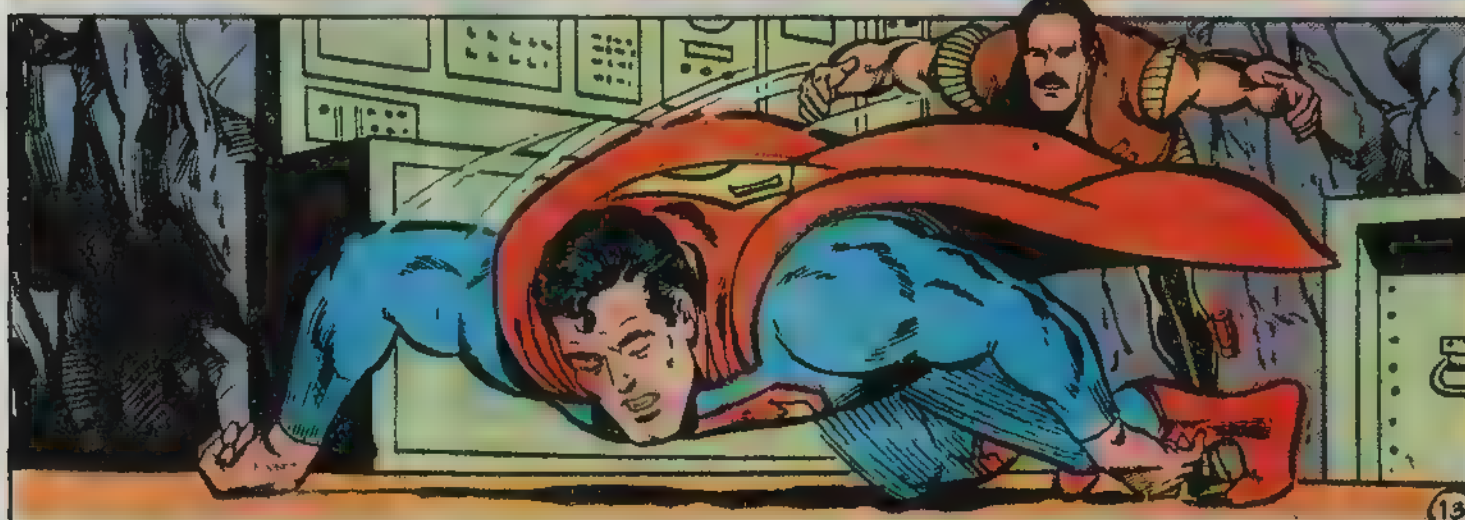
POOR **VARTOX**... ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION, HIS MENTAL ABILITIES WERE WARPED BY AN ATTACK OF OVERWHELMING **GUILT**...

...AND **NOW** IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN--



--WITH THIS FANTASY THAT HE'S ABOUT TO DESTROY EARTH... AN IMAGINARY DOOM HIS MIND HAS CREATED FOR...FOR... FOR...

AS I EXPECTED-- NOT EVEN **SUPERMAN** CAN WITHSTAND A **HYPER-BRAIN BLAST!**



**BLACKOUT...WHICH BEGINS TO LIFT
IN RESPONSE TO AN URGENT PLEA...**

**YOU MUST TAKE
HEED OF MY
WARNING WHILE
THERE IS STILL
TIME!**

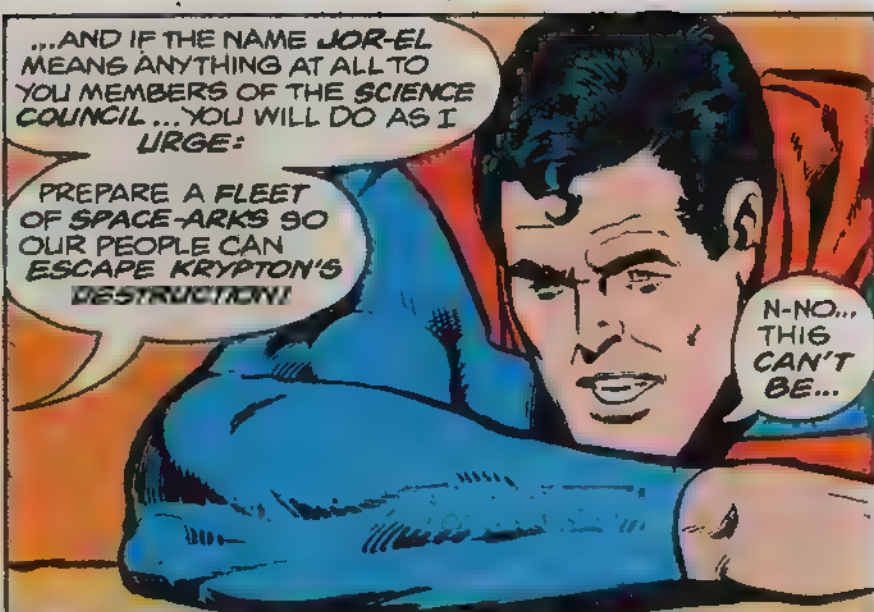
**CONSIDER MY
REPUTATION AS A
LEADING SCIENTIST
...CONSIDER MY
IRREFUTABLE
CALCULA-
TIONS...**



**...AND IF THE NAME JOR-EL
MEANS ANYTHING AT ALL TO
YOU MEMBERS OF THE SCIENCE
COUNCIL ...YOU WILL DO AS I
URGE:**

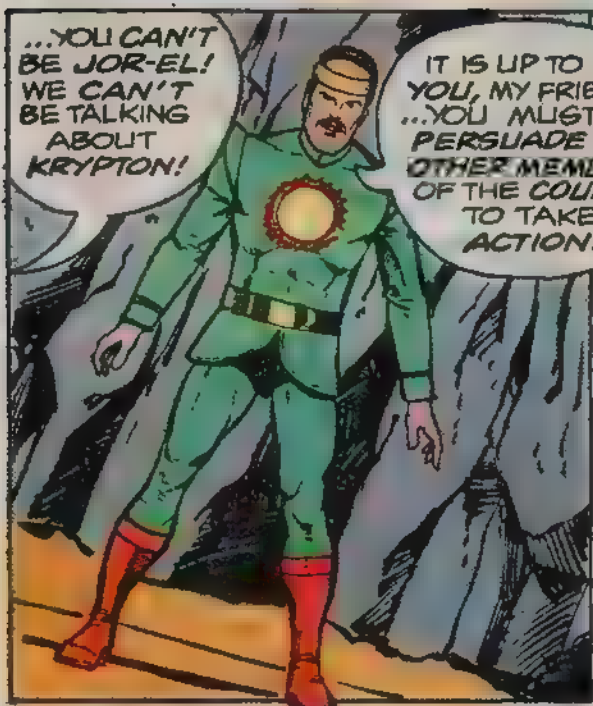
**PREPARE A FLEET
OF SPACE-ARKS SO
OUR PEOPLE CAN
ESCAPE KRYPTON'S
DESTRUCTION!**

**N-NO...
THIS
CAN'T
BE...**



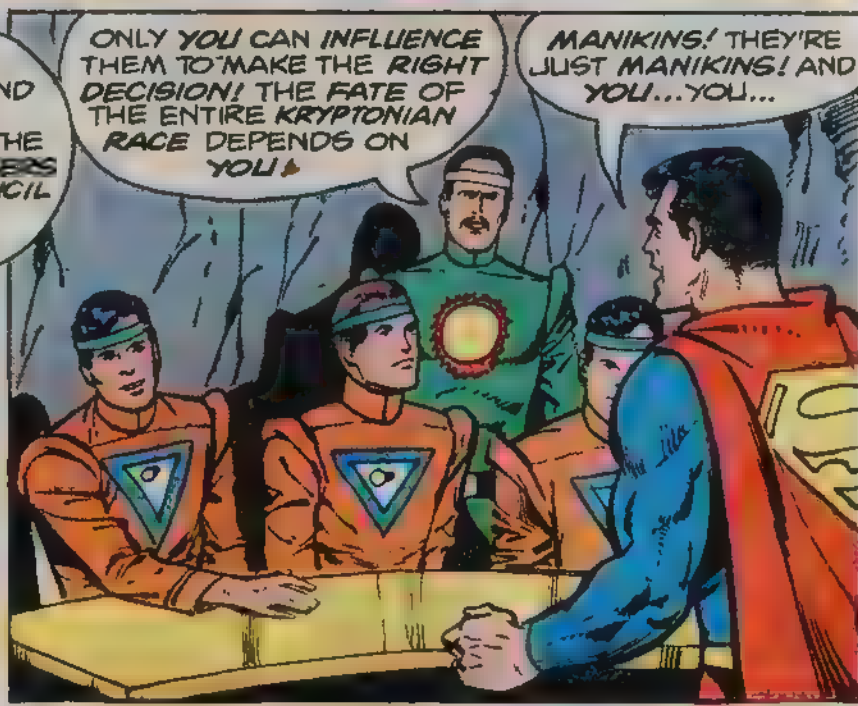
**...YOU CAN'T
BE JOR-EL!
WE CAN'T
BE TALKING
ABOUT
KRYPTON!**

**IT IS UP TO
YOU, MY FRIEND
...YOU MUST
PERSUADE THE
OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE COUNCIL
TO TAKE
ACTION!**

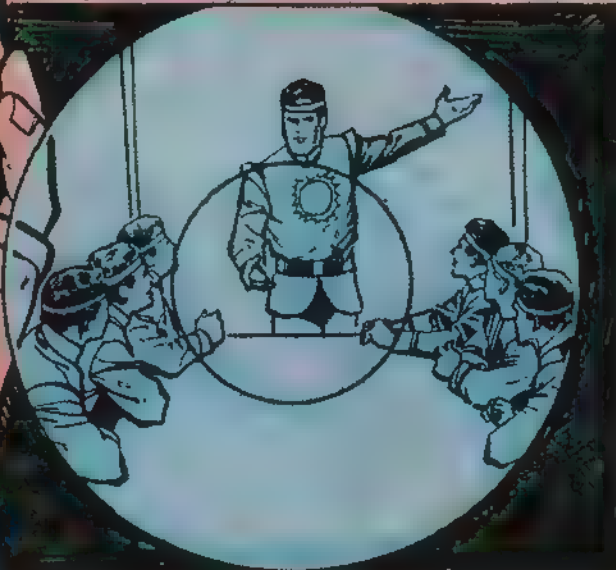


**ONLY YOU CAN INFLUENCE
THEM TO MAKE THE RIGHT
DECISION! THE FATE OF
THE ENTIRE KRYPTONIAN
RACE DEPENDS ON
YOU!**

**MANIKINS! THEY'RE
JUST MANIKINS! AND
YOU... YOU...**



**BUT BEFORE THE DAZED AND
DISORIENTED SUPERMAN CAN
THINK THROUGH HIS PRESENT
THOUGHT, MEMORIES OF THE TRUE
JOR-EL--HIS FATHER--EMERGE
AND OVERRUN ALL ELSE...**



**...TRAGIC MEMORIES OF A DESPERATE
WARNING THAT WENT UNHEEDED...**

**...AND THE CATASTROPHIC
EXPLOSION HE NARROWLY
ESCAPED AS AN INFANT--
INSIDE THE TINY ROCKET
LAUNCHED BY HIS
DOOMED FATHER...**

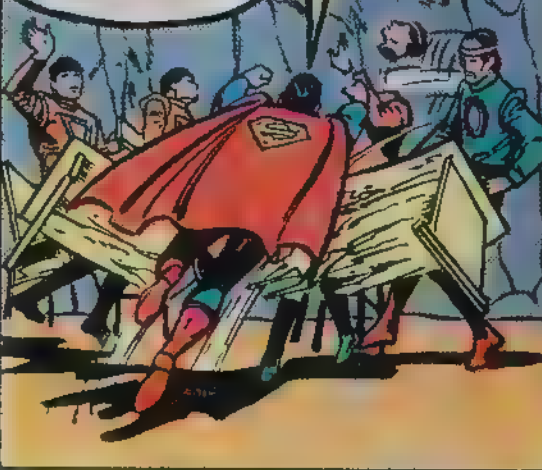


**TRAUMATIC MEMORIES,
DREDGED UP FROM THE
VERY DEPTHS OF HIS
SUBCONSCIOUS...**

... AND NOW SEETHING IN THE FORM OF AN UNCONTROLLABLE BLIND RAGE!

ARRGHH! DEAD!

IT'S TOO LATE! JOR-EL AND KRYPTON ARE DEAD!



KRASSSSHHH!

MY MAKESHIFT "PSYCHO-DRAMA" WAS DESIGNED TO FORCE SUPERMAN TO RELIEVE THE AGONY OF HIS HOME WORLD'S DESTRUCTION...

...BUT I DID NOT ENVISION SUCH A VIOLENT REACTION!



SINCE HE WAS ONLY A SMALL CHILD WHEN KRYPTON EXPLODED, HE COULD NOT THEN FULLY UNDERSTAND THE AGONY OF LOSING HIS RACE--

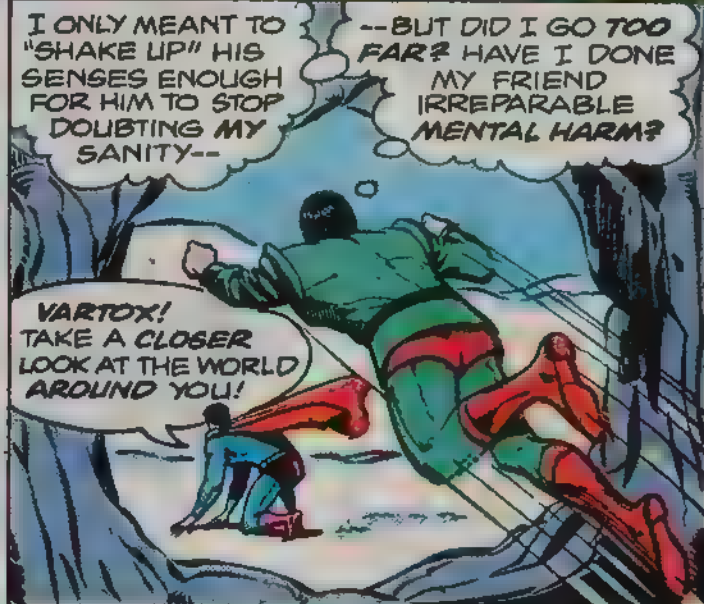
--BUT NOW, THE TOTAL HORROR CAME HOME WHEN HE RECALLED IT AS AN ADULT!



I ONLY MEANT TO "SHAKE UP" HIS SENSES ENOUGH FOR HIM TO STOP DOUBTING MY SANITY--

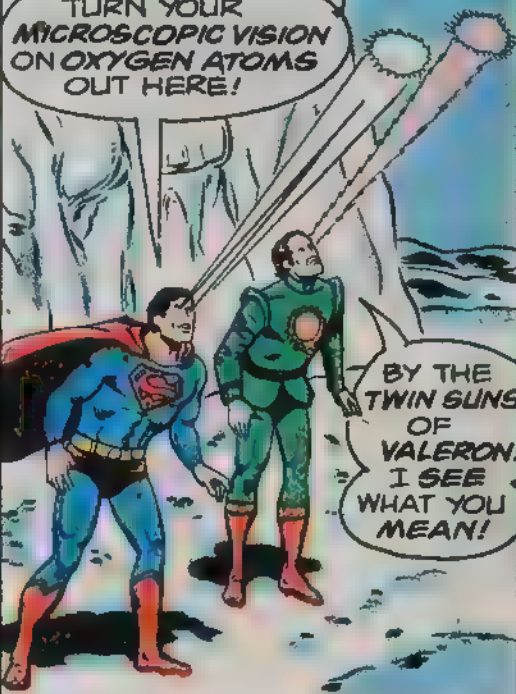
--BUT DID I GO TOO FAR? HAVE I DONE MY FRIEND IRREPARABLE MENTAL HARM?

VARTOX! TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND YOU!



--AND I DO MEAN CLOSE!

TURN YOUR MICROSCOPIC VISION ON OXYGEN ATOMS OUT HERE!



BY THE TWIN SUNS OF VALERON! I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!



YOU WERE RIGHT-- A CHAIN REACTION HAS ALREADY STARTED! OXYGEN ATOMS EXPLODING EVERYWHERE I LOOK!

I AM BAFFLED, SUPERMAN! WHY ARE THE ATOMS WITHIN YOUR FORTRESS UNAFFECTED?

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING INSIDE MY FORTRESS THAT NEUTRALIZES THE VOLATILE EFFECTS OF YOUR X-ELEMENT--

--SOMETHING YOU BROUGHT BACK FROM THE AFTER-MATH OF YOUR WORLD'S DESTRUCTION--

--THAT PILE OF RADIOACTIVE FRAGMENTS!

THE BLAST LEFT THEM ENERGIZED WITH RADIATION WHICH COUNTER-ACTS THE OXYGEN CHAIN REACTION!

HURRY!-- WE NOW HAVE THE MEANS TO SAVE EARTH-- WITH THE REMNANTS OF VALERON!

YOU LEAD AND I'LL FOLLOW!

MILLIONS OF LIGHT-YEARS ARE TRAVERSED--TONS UPON TONS OF PLANETARY DEBRIS QUICKLY GATHERED...

...AS THE TWO MIGHTY CHAMPIONS OPERATE IN SILENT UNISON, CARRYING THEIR PRECIOUS GLOWING PAYLOAD BACK ACROSS INTERSTELLAR SPACE...

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YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH I DESIRE TO STAY, DEAR LANA...

BUT EVEN AFTER ALL YOU'VE TOLD ME--I STILL DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAN'T STAY!



...BUT IT WOULD BE AN UNPARDONABLE WASTE OF THE HYPER-POWERS THAT FATE HAS BEQUEATHED TO ME!

SUCH IS MY DESTINY, LANA--

EARTH HAS ENOUGH SUPER-HEROES! I MUST SEEK OUT A NEW WORLD FOR MYSELF... AND A STRUGGLING CIVILIZATION IN DESPERATE NEED OF A CHAMPION!



--BUT IT CANNOT DIMINISH THE LOVE I WILL ALWAYS FEEL FOR YOU!

PERHAPS, IF ALL GOES WELL... AND IF YOU ARE WILLING TO WAIT... I COULD EVEN COME BACK SOME DAY...

~SNIFF~ THAT JUST MIGHT BE THE BEST OFFER I'VE HAD IN A LIFETIME!

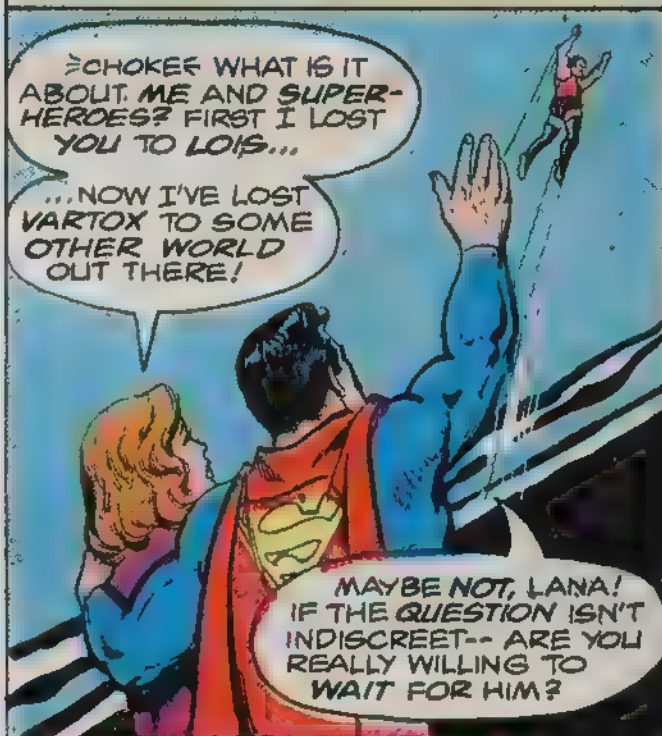


AND A MOMENT LATER, AFTER THE FINAL FAREWELLS HAVE BEEN SAID...

~CHOKES~ WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME AND SUPER-HEROES? FIRST I LOST YOU TO LOIS...

...NOW I'VE LOST VARTOX TO SOME OTHER WORLD OUT THERE!

MAYBE NOT, LANA! IF THE QUESTION ISN'T INDISCREET--ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO WAIT FOR HIM?



THE QUESTION ISN'T INDISCREET, SUPERMAN...

...BUT THE ANSWER--THAT'S ANOTHER STORY!

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, EVEN I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS!



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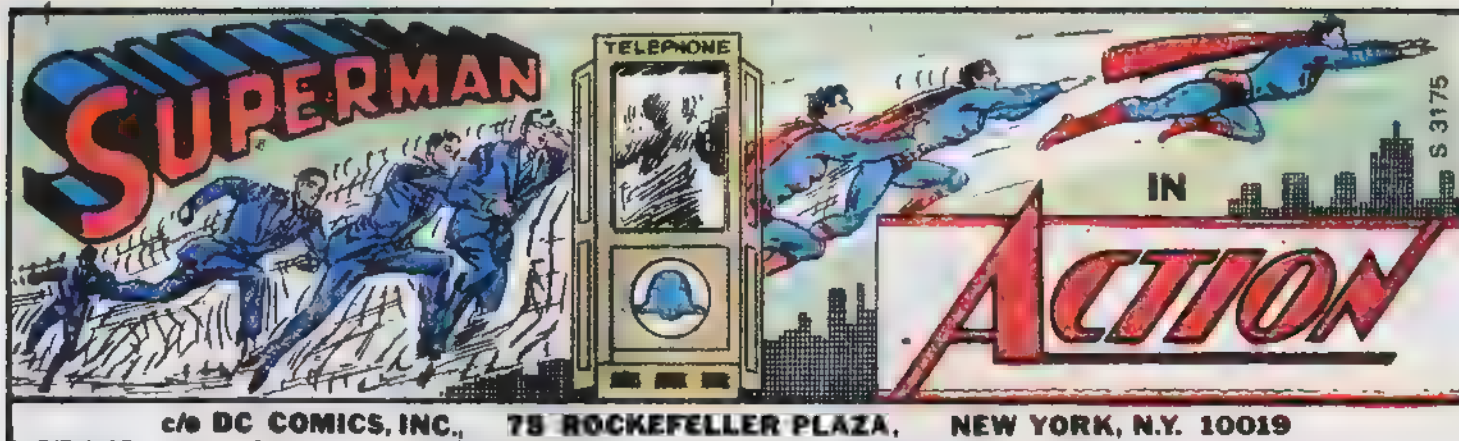
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Dear Editor:

Congratulations on making *ACTION* #494 a really great issue! "The Secret of the Super-S" brought a refreshing maturity in the way the subjects of Clark, Lois, and Smallville are handled.

When the anonymous note from Smallville arrived, I loved the way Clark was portrayed. There were no close-ups showing a concerned look on his face, no thought balloons, nothing. Clark's stoic expression during this shocking revelation really showed DC's new maturity. We know he was just as concerned as we were; we didn't have to be told! Bravo!

On the train, when Lois asks Clark if he's angry because she's accompanying him on the Smallville story, we see a more grown-up Lois. No longer does she say, "Oh, no! You're not going to outcoop me, Clark Kent!" I'm glad to see she really values Clark's friendship. There were so many times in the past when I felt she didn't care what Clark felt.

Finally, the motorcycle gang in Smallville was good. The problem of the small town, where jobs are scarce, and therefore having young folks resort to vandalism, is truly a contemporary problem. How about a story of Smallville's "dying" because of lack of young blood due to the ever-increasing number of young people migrating to the big city?

All in all, great characterization, great artwork, and a maturing of standard themes. I just hope whoever or whatever is controlling everyone's mind in the story doesn't make them forget about the upcoming 500th issue!

John Phillips Mitchell
14 Mitchell Lane
Brownsville, PA 15417

Could we forget that? After all, it is the next issue—and it'll be a 64-page special telling the complete life-story of Superman—written by Marty Pasko and illustrated by Curt Swan.—ENB

.....

Dear Editor:

To me, "The Secret of the Super-S" was pure nostalgia. When I saw the splash page heralding the reunion of Clark Kent, Perry White, Jimmy Olsen, and Lois Lane, I knew Cary Bates was about to take us down Memory Lane...er...321 Maple Street.

Honestly, I haven't enjoyed an issue of *ACTION* nearly as much as this one. The appearance of Chief Parker and Clark's return to Smallville were beautifully handled. Cary definitely has me looking forward to the Dwalu confrontation.

To say nothing of Swan's artwork! Curt did an excellent job, now that he's using larger panels to display that incredible detail. Why, if they keep this up, *ACTION* #500 should be just about perfect!

Bob Rowe
20 Lafayette Parkway
Rochester, NY 14625

Why don't all you readers who keep wondering just buy it and find out? You only have a month to wait!—ENB

.....

Dear Editor:

There is a great deal to be said about a story so delightful it makes one glow with a smile during and well after it is read. Such was the case with "The Secret of the Super-S" in *ACTION* #494, a story that reeked of hearty nostalgia from beginning to end. Last issue did end with a hint of the treat to follow, but there was no way I could prepare myself for this heartwarming and sometimes poignant excursion down Memory Lane. This was a truly inspired Bates effort.

It was quite fitting to start the story at the *Daily Planet*, with the four stalwart co-workers reunited to discuss what turned out to be one of the most fascinating untold *Superboy* stories, concerning his emblem's origin. What followed was a story relatively free of flashy super heroics or death-traps. It depended much more on the simplicity found in the stories of an earlier era. This could be seen in *Superman's* uncomplicated train rescue and Clark and Lois's return to Smallville. Here the suspense was derived from a legitimate mystery of the super-emblem and the appearance of the ghostly military figures. More impressive were the quiet scenes in the Kent home that alternated between humor and poignancy. The humor was found in Chief Parker's appraisal of "sickly" Clark and Lois's reply, while the poignancy lay in Clark and Lois talking, eating, and sleeping among the simple memories of Ma and Pa Kent—as strong a force as any parapsychological one. The ending, which promises to add another missing chapter to the untold tales of Krypton, was still another asset to this near-classic tale—a sharp contrast to the quiet warmth of the Kent home and of Smallville itself.

Finally, a question aside to Mr. Bridwell. I read recently that you feel Lois is fully aware of *Superman's* double identity. This would certainly explain Lois's lack of suspicion in recent years, as well as her enigmatic statements about Clark, especially this issue's reply to Chief Parker's lament about sickly Clark. Is Lois aware, or isn't she?

Tony Edwards
454 N. Formosa
Los Angeles, CA 90036

I have my suspicions—but Lois steadfastly refuses to tell anybody what she does or does not know about Superman. So as of today—your guess is as good as mine!—ENB

.....

Dear Editor

I really enjoyed issue #494. It was one of the best *ACTION* stories I have read in a long time.

One question, though. On page 1, Julie Schwartz is editor, but on the letter page, ENB is. Who are you?

Eric Petty
19834 Hubbard Rd
Battle Creek, MI 49017

You'll find me listed on the bottom of the first page, as associate editor. Julie reads all the letters first and suggests certain ones which might be good for the column. I make the final choice, edit the letters for the lettercol, and write the answers. Of course, that's only one of my many duties—but I've been writing the lettercols in this mag for fifteen years!—E. Nelson Bridwell

THE ANSWER MAN'S GUIDE TO THE MOVIE CONTEST

The entries have all been checked, the prizes have been awarded, and now it's time to give you the correct answers to the 25 questions in our Second Superman Movie Contest! These are the answers that were marked correct on your post card entries and the reference material supporting them follows each answer.

1. Women with the initials "L.L." have always played an important part in Superman's life. He met one such woman, Lori Lemaris, the mermaid from Atlantis...(d) while Clark was a student at Metropolis University. (SUPERMAN #129)

2. Superman's secret identity is one of the best kept secrets in the world, but there is one man who has known that secret for years...(c) Pete Ross. (SUPERBOY #90)

3. The metal Green Kryptonite is fatal to Superman, while the red variety causes strange side effects in the Man of Steel. Anti-Kryptonite, however...(b) affects non-super-powered Kryptonians. (ADVENTURE #393)

4. When Superman first confronted his arch-enemy, Lex Luthor, the master criminal had a full head of hair. The color of his hair was...(c) red. (Early ACTION COMICS)

5. Though Luthor is known as a master criminal on Earth, he is admired and respected as a great hero on the planet...(a) Lelor. (ACTION #318)

6. Years ago, Superman and Luthor were best friends. Luthor turned to evil because...(c) Superboy caused his hair to fall out. (SUPERBOY #92)

7. Jor-El served several terms as a member of the Science Council, Krypton's ruling body. He was first elected thanks to his discovery of...(a) the Phantom Zone. (SUPERBOY #104)

8. Everybody knows that Jor-El had a younger brother, Zor-El, who was Supergirl's father. Jor-El also had a twin brother named...(e) Nim-El. (SUPERMAN #146)

9. Nearly everyone on Krypton owned a "Jor-El", an amazing creation named after the man who invented it. The "Jor-El" was...(a) an all-purpose vehicle for land, sea and air. (SUPERMAN #134)

10. Today he's known as Mr. Action of the Daily Planet, but before he gained fame as a reporter, Jimmy Olsen's job at the Daily Planet was...(b) copyboy. (1940's issues)

11. Everybody knows that Jimmy Olsen has been the super-hero Elastic Lad, but he also had another secret identity as the super-hero...(c) Flamebird. (JIMMY OLSEN #69)

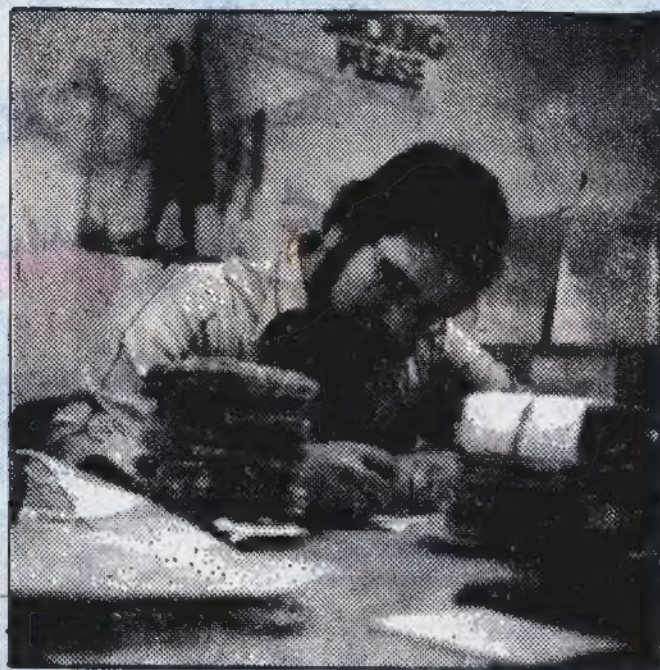
12. In addition to his work on the Planet, Jimmy has written a book on...(b) Superman. (JIMMY OLSEN #29)

13. Before becoming a star reporter at the Daily Planet, Lois Lane wrote for the Daily Star...(c) advice to the lovelorn. (ACTION #1)

14. A member of the Superman Family we do not see much of these days is Lois' sister Lucy. She is best known for...(d) being Jimmy Olsen's girlfriend. (JIMMY OLSEN #46)

15. Living in the bottle city of Kandor is Sylvia, a Lois Lane lookalike. Sylvia is...(b) an Earth-woman who moved to Kandor. (LOIS LANE #15)

16. Today, Perry White is editor of the Daily Planet. But before he worked for Perry at the Planet, Clark Kent was employed...(c) at the Daily Star under editor George Taylor. (ACTION #1)



Answer Man Bob Rozakis checking entries.

Photo by Jack C. Harris

17. Perry's first scoop as a fledgling reporter was...(d) covering gangster Al Capone in Chicago. (SUPERMAN #142)

18. According to the Superman television show, before becoming editor of the Daily Planet, Perry held the post of...(b) Mayor of Metropolis. (TV show)

19. General Zod was sentenced to the Phantom Zone for...(c) attempting to take over Krypton with an army of Bizarros. (ADVENTURE #283)

20. Prior to his criminal career, General Zod was...(a) commander of the Kryptonopolis Space Center. (SUPERMAN #233)

21. According to the Superman television program, the names of the couple who adopted the Man of Steel as a baby were...(a) Eben and Sarah Kent. (TV show)

22. Pa Kent was a farmer when he first adopted baby Clark. Later he...(a) became a shop-keeper. (SUPERMAN #146)

23. When she married Jor-El, Lara took his name, as was the custom on Krypton. Before they were wed, Lara's full name was...(c) Lara Lor-Van. (SUPERMAN #233)

24. Lara's occupation before she met Jor-El was...(b) astronaut. (SUPERMAN #233)

25. When a couple is wed on Krypton, they exchange...(b) multi-colored bracelets. (ACTION #484)

Those are the official answers and we hope all of you who entered the contest enjoyed doing so. For a list of the big winners and just how they were chosen, check out the Feature Page in this month's issues of DC COMICS PRESENTS, JUSTICE LEAGUE, WEIRD WAR TALES, WORLD OF KRYPTON, and SUPERMAN.

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